

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 2/22/10, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Steve Kurland, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener; missing Mike Rademacher and John Lentz.

Visitors Present: Andy Machado, Allen Elgart (180 Mass. Ave.), Jeff Roth (ABAC).

1. Public Comments. None.
2. Administration.
 - Minutes of 1/13/09 were approved unanimously.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
 - Status of Outstanding Actions: Downing Square—detailed survey is done; Westminster Curve—Retaining wall is in poor condition, working on strategy to replace or improve it. Bollards probably won't happen this year, chevrons will stay in place. Sidewalks, curbing, and road grading will occur this year; Countdown ped. timers for Mass. Ave./Route 60—Mike is working with Republic on getting an estimate.
3. Stratton—Ed is exploring the possibility of making Mountain Ave. one way going east. Meanwhile he recommends the addition of 2 “No Left Turn” signs, at the exit to the circle, and at the exit to the parking lot. **Voted unanimously.**
4. East Arlington Commercial Parking. Selectmen have referred this issue to TAC, following presentation of East Arlington Parking Study. Ed noted 2 parking problems—on weekends there are lots of cars and insufficient parking, mostly from restaurant and movie patrons. On weekdays there is a lack of turnover in parking spaces along Mass. Ave. Allen Elgart, who owns a number of commercial condos at 180 Mass. Ave., noted that a number of his tenants are therapists who need long-term parking. The therapists and their clients currently park primarily on the side streets. Corey said he agrees we need to protect employee parking areas. Scott noted that when a survey of residents was done, the response was a 50/50 split between those wanting more regulation, and those wanting to leave it as is. A working group was designated: Ed, Laura, Howard, Corey, Steve, and Jack Hurd.
5. Bicycle Safety. Jeff Roth of Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee came to the table. A working group with members from both TAC and ABAC and the Police Dept. was formed to look at bicycle safety. Scott Smith and Jeff Roth presented an eight-point program that covered education, enforcement, encouragement and a call to examine the feasibility of several engineering options. Corey reported that the Police will receive additional training on bike regulations and safety, and bike training at schools will be added, aimed at 4-5 graders. Working group also discussed engineering at the Arlington Center crossing of the bike path where bikes are dumped onto the street without guidance. A number of options were presented and discussed. Jeff Roth asked for endorsement of their eight point “Bicycle Safety Program”, which will go to Selectmen. **Voted unanimously.**
6. Library Way. Correspondence was received via the Planning Department about removing parking along Mass. Ave. west of Library Way. TAC had recommended in 2005 that a no parking to corner sign be placed there to remove a parking space, but the sign was placed incorrectly, so it remained. Jean said that in looking at possible locations for bus shelters, she thought we might want to move the existing bus stop located east of Library Way to the west, which would improve visibility for cars coming out of Library Way when a bus is not present. This could be done without losing parking by adding spaces at the location of the present bus stop. The sidewalk west of Library Way is wider, and therefore better for a bus shelter. Jean and Mike will look at moving the bus stop west of Library Way and at additional improvements that should be made to improve safety.
7. Highland/High Haith. Howard submitted recommendations for review in response to a resident's request for a stop sign on High Haith Road at Highland Ave. He recommended installation of a stop sign on High Haith due to a restricted view from the southeast corner. It

was also noted that there were accidents at the intersection of Spring and Highland, part of the same intersection. Stop signs were recommended for both. **Voted unanimously.**

8. Schools.
 - a. Peirce. Mike is getting estimate from Reliant for speed signs.
 - b. Brackett. John is preparing memo on snow clearance to go to DPW.
 - c. Dallin. Still waiting for State to give us 25% design plans for Safe Routes to Schools improvements. There remains an unresolved issue with crosswalk into the drop off zone.
 - d. Bishop. Mike is working on getting 2 "School Zone Ahead" signs for Stowecroft.
9. National Transportation Conference Report. Scott attended the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington DC. He reported that US DOT is now placing more emphasis on combating distracted driving.
10. Bus Shelter Update. Laura and Jean looked at locations along Mass. Ave. for shelters. Ed suggested developing a position paper, and then presenting it to the Selectmen. Concerns were raised about content of ads, controlling graffiti, and maintenance of shelters. Laura and Jean will prepare a memo for next meeting.
11. "Reclaiming Pleasant Street". Corey and Ed attended meeting with residents. Concerns raised about truck traffic, unsupported crosswalks, and speeds. Corey measured truck speeds and found that they were not excessive.
12. Town Reports. Laura reported that there will be meetings in March about disposition of Crosby and Parmenter Schools. A Working Group of TAC members will be meeting with Brigham's site developer and his traffic consultant on 3/4. New comprehensive permit project for 8 units on Winter Street has just been filed.
13. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

- Ed's Meeting Package: 1) Agenda 2/10/10; 2) TAC Annual Report for 2009; 3) Memo from Marie Krepelka to Frederick Ryan Re. Request 4-Way Stop Signs @Intersection of Oakland Avenue and Renfrew Street, dated December 30, 2009; 4) Email from Gianni Taraschi to Marie Krepelka Re. Traffic Sign Request, dated 12/8/09; 5) Memo from Frederick Ryan to Corey Rateau Re. Request: 4-Way Stop Sign at Oakland Avenue and Renfrew Street, dated January 21, 2010; 6) Memo from Marie Krepelka to Ed Starr Re. Change of Parking Regulations on North Union and Everett Streets, dated December 30, 2009; 7) Email from Meg Moloney to Jack Hurd, dated November 15, 2009; 8) Memo from Marie Krepelka to Ed Starr Re. Mugar Site Development Traffic Safety Concerns, dated December 30, 2009; 9) Letter from David Stoff to Board of Selectmen dated November 17, 2009; 10) Email from Stephen Harrington to Arlington List Re. Sidewalk Snow Removal, dated January 22, 2010; 11) Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 2/10/10; 12) Project Status and Status of Outstanding Actions, dated 2/10/10; 13) Draft Memo from TAC to Board of Selectmen Re. No Left Turn from Stratton School Circle; 14) "Board of Selectmen's Parking Study Report Recommendations", dated February 1, 2010; 15) Memo from Laura Wiener to Transportation Advisory Committee Re. East Arlington Parking Study, dated February 2, 2010; 16) Memo from Transportation Advisory Committee to Board of Selectmen Re. Crosswalk at Library Way/Mass. Ave., dated October 27, 2005
- Minutes of 1/13/10
- "Highland Avenue at High Haith Road/Spring Avenue", dated February 22, 2010
- Reports from Bicycle Safety Working Group, including Engineering Safety Improvement for Arlington Center Intersection: Study and Proposal, dated February 22, 2010, Arlington Center Signs and Paint, February 7, 2010, Bicycle Safety Program, Dated February 8, 2010, Arlington Center and Minuteman Bikeway Intersection, Current Conditions as of January, 2010